

# Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey 2001

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## **Abstract**

The number of pheasants seen during 24-26 April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.41, this is an decrease from the 0.47 observed in 2000. This is the first decrease in the last 4 years. The number of pheasant seen per observer was also down (0.61 vs. 0.69) from the previous year.

## **Methods**

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNRVAX computer and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added to the list of counties that are survey in 1995. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

## **Results**

Rural mail carrier participation increased by 1% in 2001. Six hundred and eighty-five respondents saw 416 pheasants during the April 24, 25, and 26 survey period. This is a 11% decrease over the number of pheasants seen in 2000. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Green (1.89), Iowa (1.78), Lafayette (1.67), Grant (1.64), and St Croix (0.94) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven decreased to 0.41 in 2001, a 15% decrease over 2000. This was the first year in the last four that there has been a decrease in this ratio. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven stayed below the long-term mean (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer fell from the 2000 ratio of 0.69, to 0.61 in 2001.

**Table 1. Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 1999-2001.**

County	Pheasants Sighted			Sightings/100 miles Driven		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Barron	1	8	5	0.05	0.45	0.23
Brown	3	8	5	0.06	0.16	0.11
Calumet	2	4	3	0.10	0.20	0.14
Columbia	10	14	5	0.23	0.48	0.13
Dane	46	38	23	0.65	0.55	0.31
Dodge	5	9	8	0.08	0.23	0.21
Door	9	4	4	0.67	0.21	0.19
Dunn	17	10	11	0.64	0.38	0.42
Fond Du Lac	23	28	22	0.61	0.67	0.65
Grant <sup>1</sup>	29	66	107	0.61	2.28	1.64
Green	7	22	54	0.34	0.63	1.89
Green Lake	9	11	10	0.57	0.62	0.49
Iowa	19	60	45	0.80	1.89	1.78
Jefferson	10	31	8	0.39	0.78	0.22
Kenosha	6	3	5	0.51	0.26	0.28
Kewaunee	4	4	4	0.14	0.14	0.14
Lafayette	44	38	29	2.58	2.18	1.67
Manitowoc	2	7	5	0.06	0.24	0.19
Oconto	4	5	14	0.24	0.24	0.48
Outagamie	3	9	6	0.06	0.19	0.13
Ozaukee	6	6	4	0.38	0.38	0.22
Pierce	15	18	5	0.44	0.66	0.13
Polk	27	30	19	0.88	0.92	0.61
Racine	1	5	16	0.04	0.20	0.76
Rock	28	3	19	0.59	0.06	0.39
St. Croix	63	32	48	1.36	0.64	0.94
Shawano	3	2	2	0.17	0.09	0.09
Sheboygan	27	21	8	0.82	0.57	0.24
Walworth	7	9	6	0.16	0.19	0.14
Washington	14	7	6	0.39	0.23	0.21
Waukesha	3	9	4	0.09	0.31	0.09
Winnebago	6	14	8	0.25	0.52	0.38
Unknown	1	0	5	0.05	0.00	0.02
Total	425	469	416	0.43	0.47	0.41

<sup>1</sup>Not included in totals

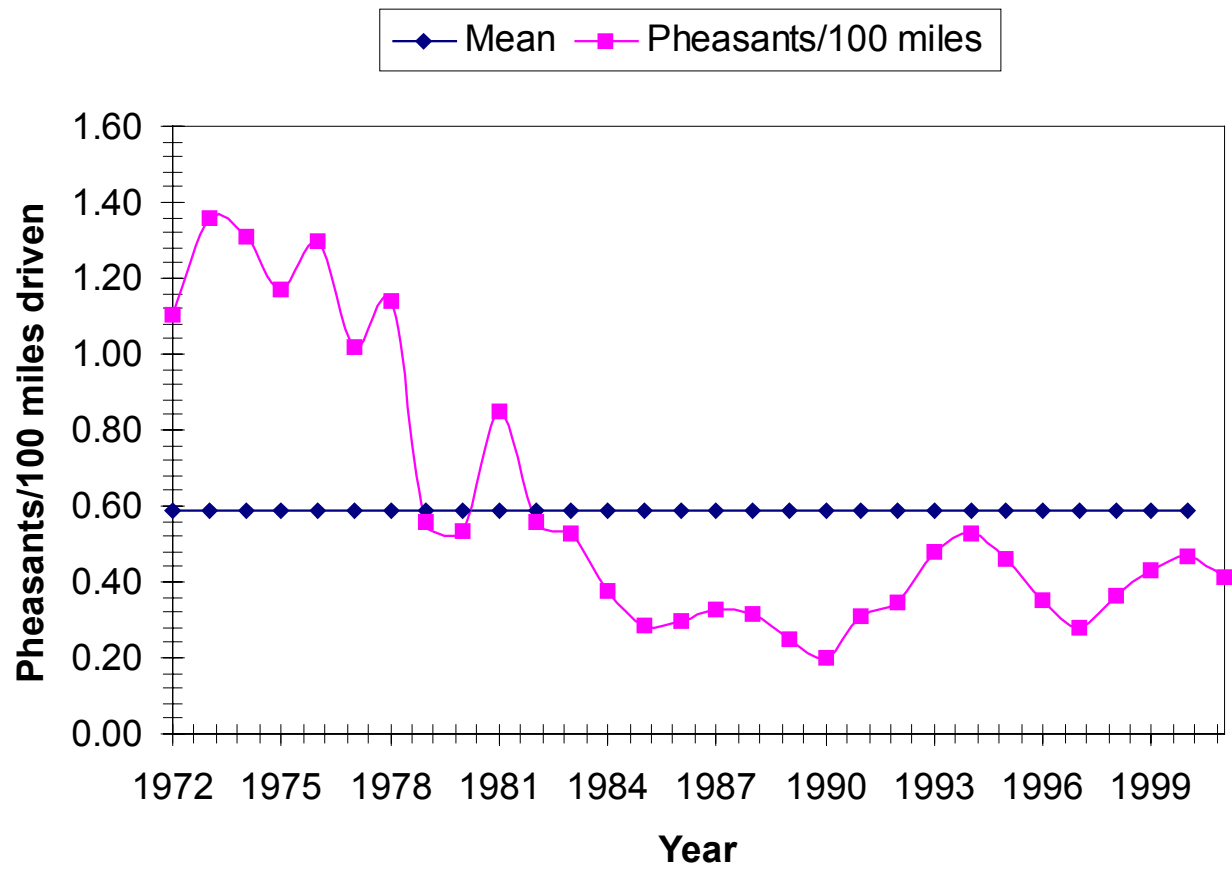


Figure 1. Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2001.

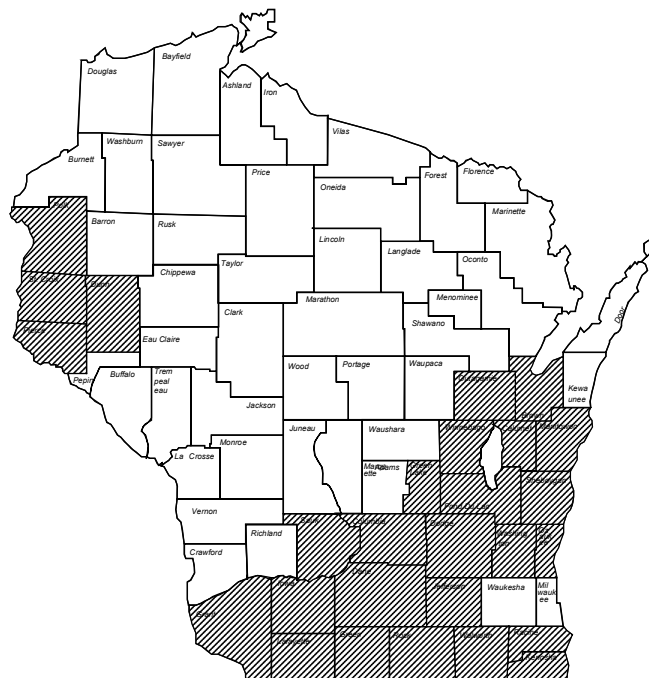


Figure 2. Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.